

4. World Air Quality Report

Why in News?

- Recently, World Air Quality Report prepared by IQAir, Delhi ranked 4th out of 50 of the world's most polluted cities in terms of PM_{2.5} levels in 2022.

Highlights

- IQAir, a Swiss air quality technology company, prepares the annual world air quality reports based on data from monitoring stations operated by governments and other institutions and organisations across the world.
- The 2022 report is based on PM_{2.5} data from 7,323 cities and 131 countries.
- Chad, Iraq, Pakistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh are the 5 most polluted countries in 2022.
- Delhi had an average PM_{2.5} level of 92.6 µg/m³ in 2022, a little below the average of 96.4 µg/m³ in 2021.
- The report makes a distinction between New Delhi and Delhi, with New Delhi having an annual average PM_{2.5} level of 89.1 µg/m³.
- The WHO guideline for annual PM_{2.5} levels is 5 µg/m³.
- Lahore was the most polluted city in the world, followed by Hotan in China, and Bhiwadi in Rajasthan.
- New Delhi is the second most polluted capital city in the world, with N'Djamena in Chad topping the list.
- A total of 39 Indian cities (including 'Delhi' and 'New Delhi') are on the list of 50 of the world's most polluted cities based on annual average PM_{2.5} levels in 2022.